

Appl. No : 10/081,027
 Filed : February 21, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims as listed below will replace all prior listings and presentations of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication device-system for facilitating communication between a patient and a caregiver, the system comprising:

a light emitting module comprising a class II laser pointer; and

an attachment device for removably affixing said light emitting module on a user-an ear stem of a pair of eyeglasses configured to be worn by a patient, the eyeglasses comprising substantially transparent lenses, wherein the laser pointer is mounted to the glasses such that a laser image is projected forward from the patient;

a remote power source configured to supply the laser with electrical power;

a remote switch coupled to the power source and the laser, the switch being configured to allow a patient or a caregiver to selectively activate and de-activate the laser; and

a chart configured to be mounted at a location distant from, but within view of the patient, the chart comprising a plurality of graphic and alphanumerical symbols arranged to be visible by both the patient and a caregiver, said symbols being configured to facilitate communication from the patient to the caregiver.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, ~~further comprising a chart, wherein the chart comprises an alphabetical listing of Latin characters.~~

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, wherein ~~said light emitting module is a laser module~~ chart comprises a plurality of graphic symbols that represent concepts relating to the patient's medical care.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said laser ~~module~~ comprises a laser diode.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein said ~~attachment device are eyeglasses~~ chart further comprises an alphanumeric label identifying each of the graphic symbols.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The communication device of Claim 1, wherein said attachment device is headgear~~ A non-verbal communication system comprising:

A2

Appl. No : 10/081,027
 Filed : February 21, 2002

a light emitting pointer mounted to a patient or to an accessory or an article of clothing worn by a patient;

a power source configured to supply the light emitting pointer with electrical power;

a switch coupled to the power source and the light emitting pointer, the switch being configured to allow the patient or the caregiver to selectively activate and deactivate the light emitting pointer;

a display configured to be positioned at a location remote from, but within view of the patient, the display comprising a plurality of symbols arranged to be visible by both the patient and a caregiver and illuminated by light from the pointer, said symbols being configured to facilitate communication of concepts from the patient to the caregiver.

A2
 7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, wherein the power source comprises further comprising a power compartment containing at least one battery, said power compartment connected to said light emitting module via an electrical conductor.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 7, wherein said power compartment is formed by a housing that also houses the switch, separate from said light emitting module

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 7, further comprising a power switch wherein the accessory or article of clothing comprises a hat.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 7, wherein the housing further comprising comprises a dimmer switch configured to vary an intensity of a light emitting pointer beam emitted by the light emitting pointer.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, wherein the attachment device comprises at least one O-ring 2, wherein said chart displays a plurality of symbols.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 11, wherein the dimmer switch is accessible through a hole in said housing said symbols are

Appl. No : 10/081,027
 Filed : February 21, 2002

alphanumeric characters.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim ~~11~~ 6, wherein said symbols are icons portraying concepts to be communicated by said ~~user~~ patient.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim ~~13~~ 6, wherein the display further ~~comprising~~ comprises labels corresponding to said concepts to be communicated by said patient ~~user~~.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver, the method comprising:

providing a laser coupled to a power supply and an on/off switch by a length of wire;

removably affixing a the laser module via an attachment device on a user to a pair of eyeglasses worn by the patient;

providing a chart at a location remote from, but within view of the patient, the chart comprising a plurality of symbols arranged to be visible to both the patient and the caregiver, said symbols being configured to symbolize concepts to be communicated from the patient to the caregiver;

activating the laser by operating the switch;

aiming a laser beam emitted from said laser module at a symbol displayed on a the chart, causing a visible laser image to impinge on the chart on or adjacent a symbol that symbolizes a concept to be communicated to the caregiver; and

allowing a caregiver to viewing said symbol illuminated by said laser beam.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of nonverbal communication as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said aiming of said laser beam is achieved via body movement proximal to a point of attachment of said attachment device.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver comprising:

affixing a laser module to an article worn by a patient via an attachment device on a user;

activating the laser via a switch;

aiming-directing a laser beam emitted from said laser module at an object, so

A 2

Appl. No : 10/081,027
 Filed : February 21, 2002

as to cause a laser image to impinge on the object; and

allowing a caregiver to viewing said object illuminated by said laser beam;

wherein said object is selected by the patient to communicate a concept to a caregiver, the concept relating to a medical care of the patient.

18. (NEW) An apparatus for use with a system for providing nonverbal communication between a first person and a second person, a light emitting pointer being mounted to the head of the first person, the apparatus comprising:

a chart having a plurality of images printed thereon, said objects being selected to represent concepts to be communicated by a first person to a second person;

a support for supporting the chart within view of the first person and the second person, such that the first person can point to the images on the chart with the light emitting pointer.

19. (NEW) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the chart comprises images representing at least one concept selected from the group consisting of: pain, discomfort, emotion, personal grooming requests and information relating to a medical condition of the first person.

20. (NEW) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the images are grouped according to said concept, and wherein a plurality of images indicating related concepts are located adjacent one another on the chart.

21. (NEW) A system configured to provide a system of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver, the system comprising:

a pointer device projecting into a room where the patient and the caregiver are located;

said pointer device being mounted on the patient and adapted to point to objects remote from the patient and within view of the caregiver;

said objects comprising an indication of a desired communication between the patient and the caregiver.

Appl. No : 10/081,027
Filed : February 21, 2002

22. (NEW) The system of Claim 21, wherein the object is symbolic of at least one concept selected from the group consisting of: pain, discomfort, emotion, personal grooming requests and information relating to a medical condition of the patient.

23. (NEW) The system of Claim 21, wherein the pointer device comprises a laser pointer.